

CAPSULE SUMMARY
6511 Old Branch Avenue (PG: 76B-26)
Prince George's County, Maryland

Constructed in 1927, the modest frame house is characteristic of the Craftsman style houses of the period. The property has been owned by the Aley family since 1926, when approximately ten acres of the Coolridge tract were purchased by Elizabeth Aley from Charles and Edna Wilcox. The house is one of the better examples of the Craftsman style in the Maryland 301 Survey Corridor.

The house at 6511 Old Branch Avenue is located at the intersection of Old Branch Avenue and Aley Road. Vegetable gardens and chicken pens lie to the rear of the house. The house is two-and-one-half-stories in height and three bays in width. Rectangular in plan, the Craftsman style house is set on a rock-faced concrete block foundation and is clad in narrow wood weatherboard. A one-story, two-bay porch extends across half of the façade. Two brick chimneys rise from the front gable asphalt shingle roof. Characteristic of Craftsman style houses, the roof has wide, overhanging eaves embellished with exposed rafter tails and cut-out wood brackets.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
MD INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Inventory No. PG: 76B-26

=====

1. Name of Property

=====

historic name _____

common/other name _____

=====

2. Location

=====

street & number 6511 Old Branch Avenue not for publication _____
city or town Temple Hills vicinity _____ state Maryland code MD
county Prince George's County code 33 zip code 20748

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3. State/Federal Agency Certification

N/A

=====

4. National Park Service Certification

N/A

=====

5. Classification

=====

Ownership of Property (Check all that apply)

- ☒ private
☐ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- ☒ building(s)
☐ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing Noncontributing

<u>5</u>	<u>1</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>5</u>	<u>1</u>	Total

Is this property listed in the National Register?

Yes _____ Name of Listing _____
No X

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6511 Old Branch Avenue
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6. Function or Use

=====

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC Sub: Single Dwelling

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC Sub: Single Dwelling

=====

7. Description

=====

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Craftsman

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation Solid: Rock-faced Concrete Block

Roof Front Gable: Asphalt Shingle

Walls Frame: Wood Weatherboard

other _____

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property.)

See Continuation Sheet No. 7-1

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8. Statement of Significance

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Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- ☐ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- ☐ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ B removed from its original location.
- ☐ C a birthplace or a grave.
- ☐ D a cemetery.
- ☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ F a commemorative property.
- ☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

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Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance 1926-1950

Significant Dates c. 1927

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation Undefined

Architect/Builder Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property.)

See Continuation Sheet No. 8-1

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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(Cite the books, articles, legal records, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Carley, Rachel. *The Visual Dictionary of American Domestic Architecture*. New York, NY: Henry Holt and Company, 1994.

Charles County Land and Will Records. Charles County Courthouse and the Maryland State Archives, Annapolis, Maryland.

Massey, James C. and Shirley Maxwell. A Nation in Bungalove. In *Old House Journal*, Volume XXIV, Number 2 (March/April 1996): p. 35-36.

McAlester, Virginia and Lee. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. New York, NY: Alfred A. Knopf, 1985.

Rivoire, J. Richard. *Homeplaces: Traditional Domestic Architecture of Charles County, Maryland*. Crownsville, MD: Maryland Historical Trust, 1990.

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10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of Property 35,083 square feet

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The property at 6511 Old Branch Avenue is designated as Parcel 272, Grid B1 as indicated on Map 107.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The building at 6511 Old Branch Avenue has historically been associated with Parcel 272 since its construction in 1927.

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11. Form Prepared By

=====

name/title R. Weidlich and C. Novelli, Architectural Historians
organization EHT Traceries, Inc. date July 7, 1999
street & number 5420 Western Avenue telephone 301/656-5283
city or town Chevy Chase state MD zip code 20815

=====

12. Property Owner

=====

name Walter L. and Shirley E. Aley
street & number 6511 Old Branch Avenue telephone _____
city or town Temple Hills state MD zip code 20748

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. PG: 76B-26

Section 7 Page 1

6511 Old Branch Avenue
name of property
Prince George's County, MD
county and state

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The house at 6511 Old Branch Avenue is located at the intersection of Old Branch Avenue and Aley Road. Vegetable gardens and chicken pens lie to the rear of the house. Constructed circa 1927, the house is two-and-one-half-stories in height and three bays in width. Rectangular in plan, the Craftsman style house is set on a rock-faced concrete block foundation and is clad in narrow wood weatherboard. A one-story, two-bay porch extends across half of the façade. Two brick chimneys rise from the front gable asphalt shingle roof. Characteristic of Craftsman style houses, the roof has wide, overhanging eaves embellished with exposed rafter tails and cut-out wood brackets.

EXTERIOR DESCRIPTION:

The façade or northeast elevation is three bays in width with a one-story, two-bay porch that is supported by brick piers and has exposed rafter tails. A square wood post atop a low brick pier has replaced the center porch support. Behind the porch is a single leaf, panel-and-light door and to the side of the porch is a three-sided window bay. Square edged surrounds frame the nine 6/1 wood windows, some of which are paired. The upper half-story contains a six-light wood casement window.

An exterior shouldered brick chimney graces the northwest elevation of the house. Two six-light casement windows flank the chimney shaft at both the first and second stories. A paired 6/1 wood window pierces the first story and a single 6/1 wood window pierces the second story. Square-edged wood surrounds frame the windows.

Both the first and second stories of the rear elevation contain two 6/1 wood windows. The first story is further adorned with a single leaf, wood panel and four-light door. A one-story, one-bay portico covers the entryway. It features a shed roof with exposed rafter tails that is supported by square, wood posts. There are two three-light windows with brick rowlock sills cut into the concrete block foundation. The upper half-story contains a six-light wood casement window. The gable roof has wide eaves supported by decorative wood brackets.

There are two three-light windows with brick rowlock sills cut into the foundation on the southeast elevation. A single leaf, wood panel door with four lights pierces the first story. At both the

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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Section 7 Page 2

6511 Old Branch Avenue
name of property
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first and second stories, there are three 6/1 wood windows framed
by square-edged wood surrounds.

SUPPORTING BUILDINGS:

To the rear of the house, there are five outbuildings, four of which date to the 1920s. The historic outbuildings include the Craftsman style garage and three frame sheds. The one-story, one-bay garage is set on a concrete foundation and is clad in narrow, wood weatherboard. Double leaf, wood cross-braced doors adorn the façade. The front gable asphalt shingle roof has decorative wood brackets at the eaves. There are two one-story, one-bay sheds with vertical board wood cladding and corrugated metal shed roofs, one of which has a shed roof addition. The third historic shed is one story in height and one bay in width. It is clad in wood weatherboard and has a single leaf door. The front gable, asphalt shingle roof has exposed rafter tails. The fifth outbuilding is a 1960s frame poultry shed. It is one story in height and one bay in width. It is clad in plywood and covered by a front gable, asphalt shingle roof.

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Section 8 Page 1

6511 Old Branch Avenue
name of property
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county and state

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Constructed in 1927, the modest frame house is characteristic of the Craftsman style houses of the period. The property has been owned by the Aley family since 1926, when approximately ten acres of the Coolridge tract were purchased by Elizabeth Aley from Charles and Edna Wilcox. The house is one of the better examples of the Craftsman style in the Maryland 301 Survey Corridor.

The typical Bungalow/Craftsman style, which gained popularity in the early 20th century, can be identified by the horizontal lines, deep, full-width porches, low-pitched roofs, broad eaves, an emphasis on natural materials, and a general air of informality.

First used as vacation cabins, the Bungalow's small scale, informal floor plans, sheltering porches, and inexpensive building materials made it a natural addition to suburban communities.¹ Typical of Craftsman style houses, this dwelling features exposed rafter tails, wide eaves with cut-out brackets, double-hung windows and wide wood surrounds on the doors and windows. The bungalow became the dominant style of middle and working class households in the early years of the 20th century. These houses were very popular because they were inexpensive to design and build. In fact, the style was spread primarily by plans sold in popular catalogues, rather than by architects.

The construction of this house in the 1920s signals the population growth that was occurring in Prince George's County at this time.

The population rose steadily in the early 20th century, with the population in the county nearly doubling between 1910 and 1930. Much of this growth occurred in the suburban corridors that radiated outward from the District of Columbia along the Baltimore and Potomac rail line through southern Maryland and the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad located in the northwestern portion of the county. In Prince George's County, suburban development intensified around the existing communities during the late 19th and early 20th centuries as streetcar lines and early automobiles made the suburbs accessible to the upper middle and middle classes. The automobile and corollary new road construction resulted in suburbanization of previously sparsely settled portions of northern Prince George's County. This house predates the heavy suburbanization that occurred in this region of the county. Located near Andrews Air Force Base, this area of Prince George's

¹ James C. Massey and Shirley Maxwell, "A Nation in Bungalove," *Old House Journal*, Volume XXIV, Number 2, March/April 1996, page 35-36.

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6511 Old Branch Avenue
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County was greatly impacted by the building of the military installation in 1942 and then again in the 1960s with the completion of the Capital Beltway (Interstate 495).

National Register Evaluation:

The house at 6511 Old Branch Avenue is not eligible due to the fact that it does not meet National Register Criteria A, B, C, or D. Preliminary research has not revealed any association between the building and events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history (Criterion A) or the lives of persons significant in our past (Criterion B). Although the building provides an example of vernacular rural architecture, it is neither unusual nor distinguished; it does not represent the work of a master or display high artistic merit (Criterion C). There is no evidence that the property is likely to yield information important in history or prehistory (Criterion D). Thus, the property is not National Register-eligible.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

Eligibility recommended _____ Not Recommended X

Comments:

LOOKS MORE LIKE AN I-HOUSE
THAN CRAFTSMAN

Review, OPS: [Signature]

Date: 11/1/99

Reviewer, NR Program: _____

Date: _____

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
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HISTORIC CONTEXT:

Geographic Organization: Western Shore

Chronological/Development Period (s):

Industrial/Urban Dominance (1870-1930)
Modern Period (1930-present)

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme (s):

Architecture, Landscape, and
Community Planning

RESOURCE TYPE(S)

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function (s): DOMESTIC/Single Dwelling

Known Design Source: Unknown

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
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6511 Old Branch Avenue
name of property
Prince George's County, MD
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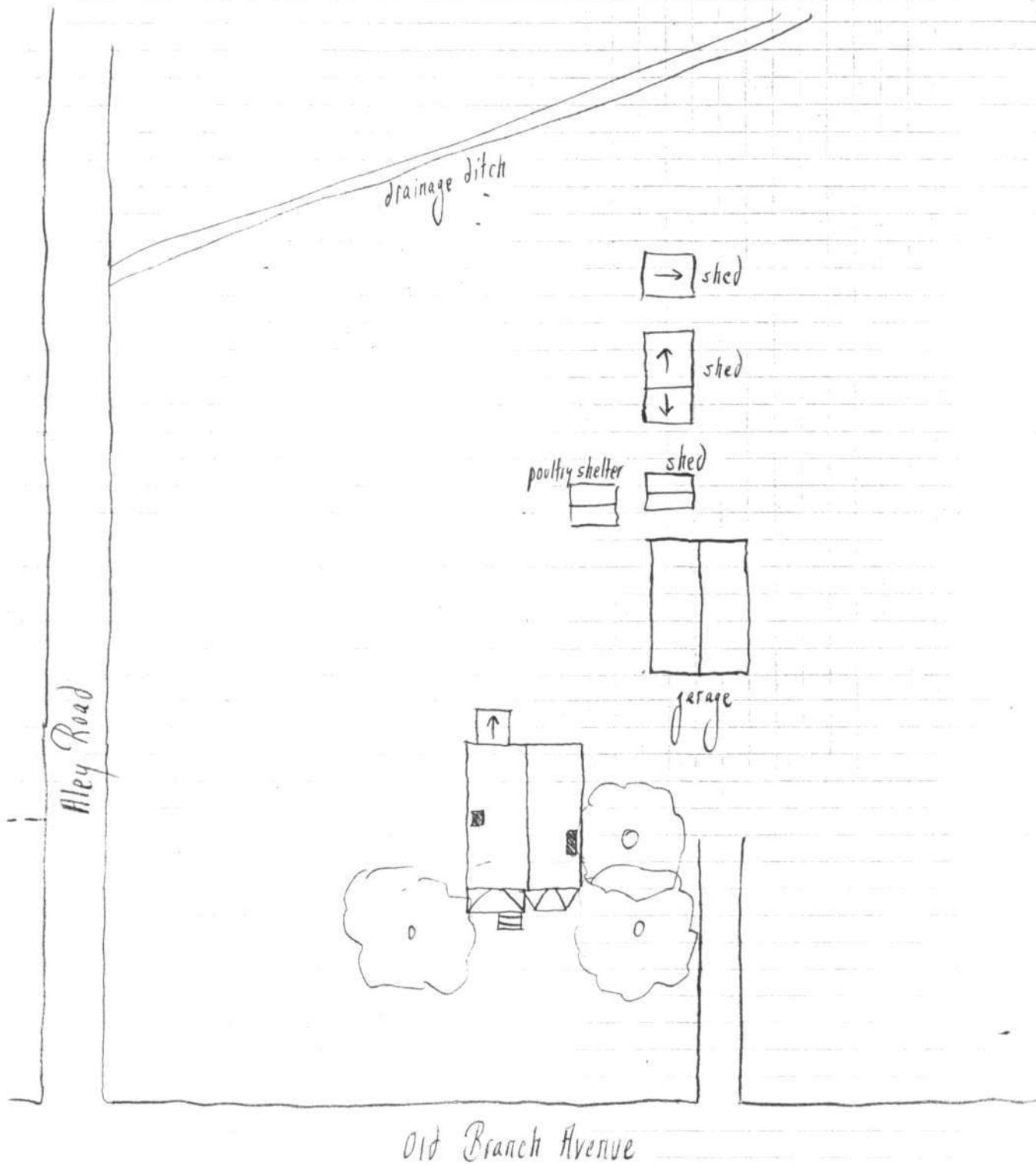
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Chain of Title:

March 18, 1889: Julia Murphy and John H. Murphy, trustee, to
Ida J. Merchant
Land Records of Prince George's County
Liber JWB 10 Folio 733

August 2, 1919: Ida J. Merchant to Charles C. Wilcox
Land Records of Prince George's County
Liber 142 Folio 248

November 22, 1926: Charles C. and Edna B. Wilcox to Elizabeth L.
Aley
Land Records of Prince George's County
Liber 278 Folio 129

March 29, 1984: Elizabeth L. Aley to Walter L. and Shirley E.
Aley
Land Records of Prince George's County
Liber 5867 Folio 77

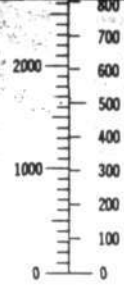


6511 Old Branch Avenue PG: 76B-26

Prince George's County
Maryland

Resource Sketch map 1999
Not Drawn to Scale





Feet	Meters
1	.3048
2	.6096
3	.9144
4	1.2192
5	1.5240
6	1.8288
7	2.1336
8	2.4384
9	2.7432
10	3.0480

To convert feet to meters
multiply by .3048

To convert meters to feet
multiply by 3.2808

296

47°30"

295

294

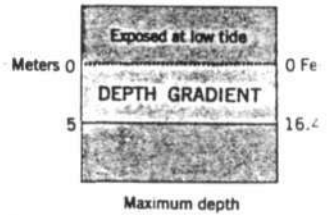
4.2 MI. O. MD. 4

292

6206 OLD BRANCH AVENUE
PG: 76B-25

6516 OLD BRANCH AVENUE
PG: 76B-27

6605 OLD BRANCH AVENUE
PG: 76B-28



Anacostia USGS Quad

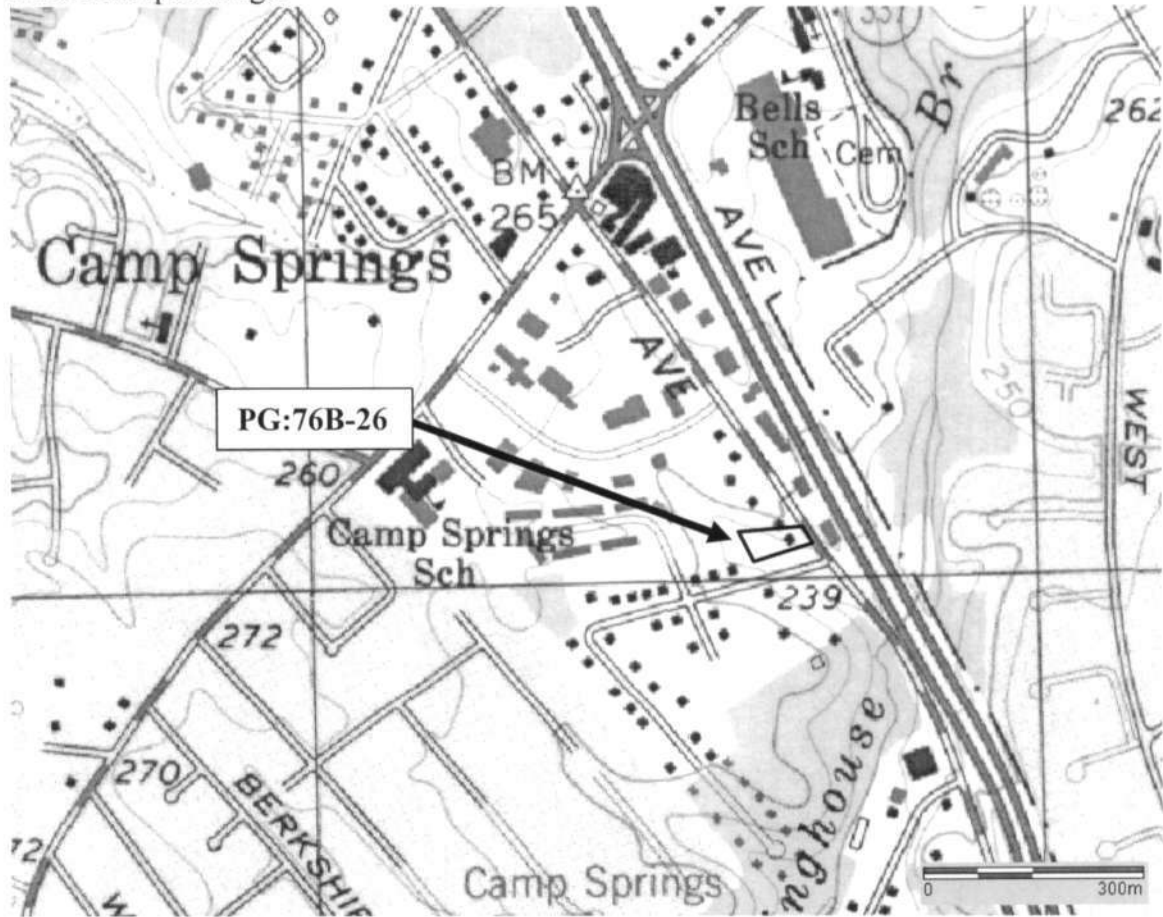


6511 OLD BRANCH AVENUE
PG: 76B-26

PG:76B-26

6511 Old Branch Avenue, Temple Hills

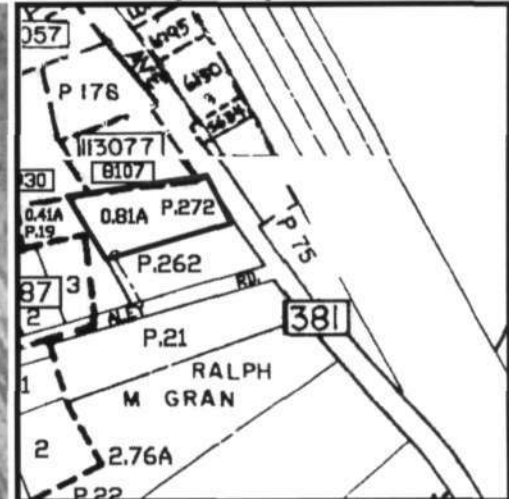
Anacostia quadrangle



1998 Aerial Photo



Tax Map 107, p. 272





PG:76B-26

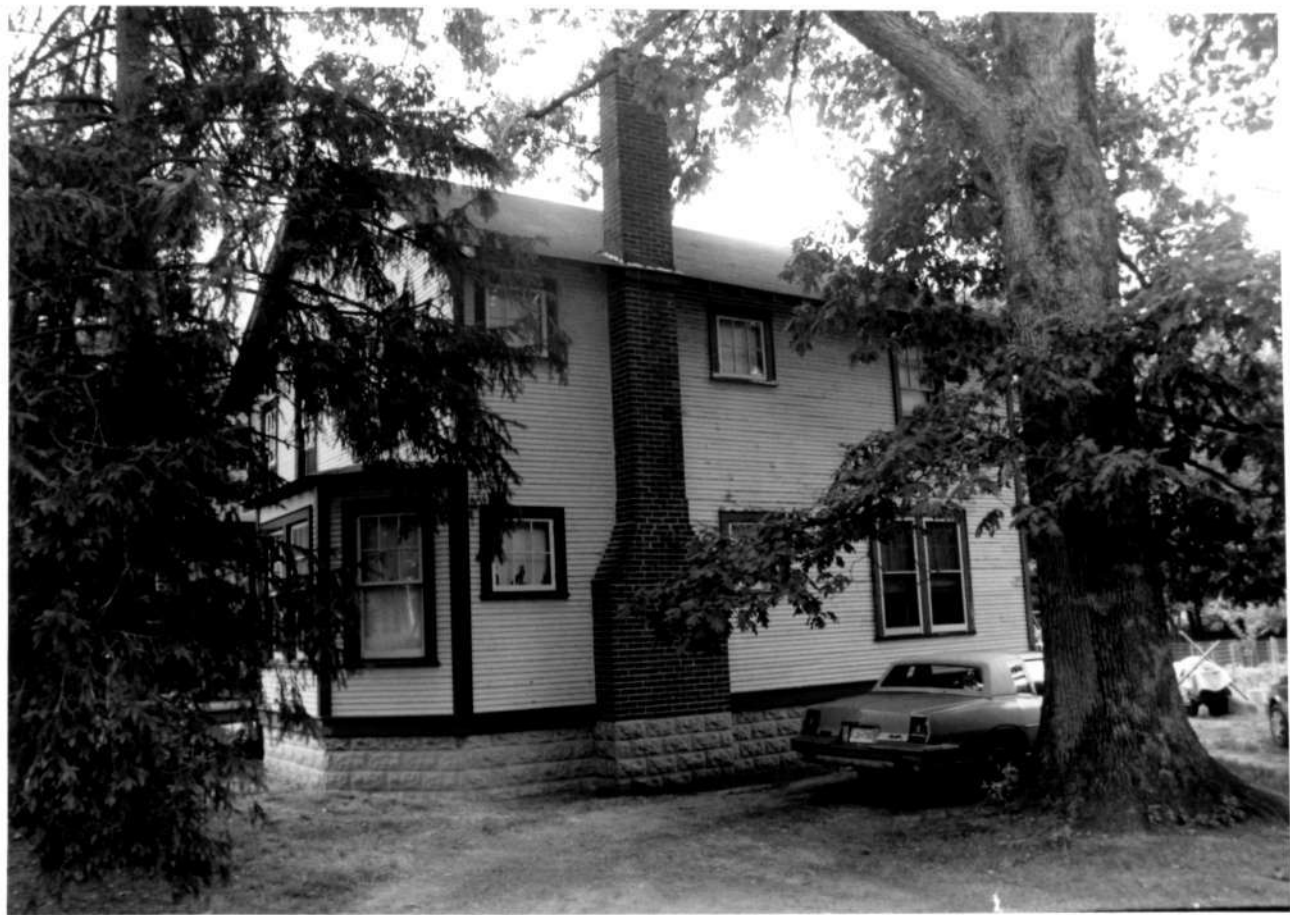
6511 OLD BRANCH AVENUE
PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MD
TRACERIES

JULY 1999

MD SHPO

northeast elevation

1 of 6



PG: 76B-26

4511 OLD BRANCH AVENUE

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

JULY 1999

MD SHPO

northwest elevation

2 of 6



9C:768-26

6511 OLD BRANCH AVENUE
PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MD
TRACERIES

JULY 1999

MD SHPO

southwest elevation

3 of 6



PG:76B-26

6511 OLD BRANCH AVENUE
PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MD
TRACERIES

JULY 1999

MD GHPD

southeast elevation

4 of 6



PG: 76B-26

6511 OLD BRANCH AVENUE

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MD

TRAKERIES

JULY 1999

MD SHPO

garage, NE ELEVATION

5 of 6



PG:76B-26

6511 OLD BRANCH AVENUE
PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MD
TRAILERIES

JULY 1999

MD SHPD

sheds, poultry shelter, and garage, looking N

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